



Enemy drone that killed U.S. troops in Jordan was mistaken for a U.S. drone

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An enemy drone that killed three American troops and wounded dozens of others in Jordan may have been confused with an American drone returning to the U.S. installation, two U.S. officials said Monday. As the enemy drone was flying in at a low altitude, a U.S. drone was returning to the small desert installation known as Tower 22 and may have been let pass by mistake, according to a preliminary report cited by the officials, who were not authorized to comment and insisted on anonymity. As a result, there was no effort to shoot down the enemy drone that hit the outpost early Sunday morning. One of the trailers where troops sleep sustained the brunt of the strike, while surrounding trailers got limited damage from the blast and flying debris.

Officials said that of the 34 wounded troops, most had cuts, bruises, traumatic brain injuries and similar wounds. Eight were medically evacuated and the most seriously hurt service member is in critical but stable condition.



This satellite photo from Planet Labs PBC shows a military base known as Tower 22 in northeastern Jordan, on Oct. 12, 2023.

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Enemy drone that killed U.S. troops in Jordan was mistaken for a U.S. drone

Continued from Front

The preliminary conclusion was first reported by The Wall Street Journal. The White House declined to comment on the finding. Explanation for how the enemy drone evaded U.S. air defenses on the installation came as the White House said Monday it's not looking for war with Iran even as President Joe Biden vows retaliatory action. The Democratic administration believes Tehran was behind the strike.

Biden met with members of his national security team in the White House Situation Room to discuss the latest developments.

The brazen attack, which the Biden administration blames on Iranian-based proxies, adds another layer of complexity to an already tense Mideast situation as the Biden administration tries to keep the Israel-Hamas war from expanding into a broader regional conflict.

"The president and I will not tolerate attacks on U.S. forces, and we will take all necessary actions to defend the U.S. and our troops," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Monday as he met at the Pentagon with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Biden faces a difficult balancing act as he looks to strike back against Tehran in a forceful way without allowing the Gaza conflict to further metastasize. The drone attack was one of dozens on U.S. troops in the Middle East since Hamas launched attacks on Israel on Oct. 7, igniting the war in Gaza. But it's the first in which American service members have been killed. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby reiterated a day after Biden promised to "hold all those responsible to account at a time and in a manner (of) our choosing" that the U.S. administration wasn't seeking to get into another conflict in the Middle East.

But Kirby also made clear that the American patience has worn thin after more than two months of



President Biden bows his head in a moment of silence for the three American troops killed Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, in a drone strike in northeast Jordan, while speaking at the "Sunday Lunch" event at the Brookland Baptist Banquet Center, part of the Brookland Baptist Church, in West Columbia, S.C., on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

attacks by Iranian proxies on U.S. troops in Iraq, Syria and Jordan and on the U.S. Navy and commercial vessels in the Red Sea. The groups — including Yemen's Houthi rebels and Iraq based Kataeb Hezbollah — say the attacks are in response to Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza.

"We are not looking for a war with Iran. We are not looking to escalate the tensions any more than they already have been escalating," Kirby told reporters. "That said, this was a very serious attack. It had lethal consequences. We will respond, and we respond appropriately."

Iran on Monday denied it was behind the Jordan strike.

"These claims are made with specific political goals to reverse the realities of the region," Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani as saying. Iran regularly denies involvement in attacks linked back to it through the militias it arms across the wider Mideast.

Kirby said that U.S. officials are still working through determining which militant group was behind the attack. He noted that Iran has longed equipped and trained the militias.

Republicans have laid blame on Biden for doing too little to deter Iranian militias, which have carried out at least 150 attacks on U.S. troops in region since the start of the war. Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump on Sunday called the attack "yet another horrific and tragic consequence of Joe Biden's weakness and surrender."

The attack hit a U.S. military desert outpost in the far reaches of northeastern Jordan known as Tower 22. The installation sits near the demilitarized zone on the border between Jordan and Syria along a sandy, bulldozed berm marking the DMZ's southern edge. The Iraqi border is only 10 kilometers (6 miles) away. The base began as a Jordanian outpost watching the border, then saw an increased U.S. presence after American forces entered

Syria in late 2015. The small installation includes U.S. engineering, aviation, logistics and security troops, with about 350 U.S. Army and Air Force personnel deployed. Iraq's government condemned the drone strike in an apparent effort to distance itself from an attack likely carried out by the Iranian-backed militias that have a strong presence inside Iraq.

Government spokesman Bassem al-Awadi said in a statement on Monday that Iraq is "monitoring with a great concern the alarming security developments in the region" and called for "an end to the cycle of violence." The statement said that Iraq is ready to participate in diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation.

An umbrella group for Iran-backed factions known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq has claimed dozens of attacks against bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria since the Israel-Hamas war began. On Sunday, the group claimed three drone attacks against sites in Syria, including near the

border with Jordan, and one inside of "occupied Palestine" but so far hasn't claimed the attack in Jordan.

John Bolton, who served as national security adviser to Trump, said Iran hasn't paid a price for the havoc that its proxies have unleashed in the region. He suggested the Biden administration could send a strong message to Tehran with strikes on Iranian vessels in the Red Sea, Iranian air defenses along the Iraqi border, and bases that have been used to train and supply militant groups for years.

"So until Iran bears a cost, you're not going to reestablish deterrence, you're not going to put the belligerence on a downward slope."

The attack came as U.S. officials were seeing signs of progress in negotiations to broker a deal between Israel and Hamas to release the more than 100 remaining hostages being held in Gaza in exchange for an extended pause in fighting. While contours of a deal under consideration would not end the war, Americans believed that it could lay the groundwork for a durable resolution to the conflict.

Top U.S., Israeli, Egypt and Qatari officials held talks on Sunday in France about an emerging framework for a hostage deal. Israel said "significant gaps" remain but called the talks constructive and said they would continue in the week ahead.

The Jordan attack also had U.S. allies on edge that the situation in the Middle East could further spiral.

German Foreign Ministry spokesperson Sebastian Fischer said that "in view of the extremely tense situation in the region, this act is completely irresponsible and could lead to pushing the region further toward escalation."

"We expect from Iran that it finally exert its influence on its allies in the region so that there is no uncontrolled conflagration, in which no one can have an interest," Fischer said. □

There's a wave of new bills to define antisemitism

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

Lawmakers in more than a half-dozen U.S. states are pushing laws to define antisemitism, triggering debates about free speech and bringing complicated world politics into statehouses.

Supporters say it's increasingly important to add a definition that lays out how to determine whether some criticism of Israel also amounts to hatred of Jewish people.

In so doing, lawmakers cited the Oct. 7 attacks in which Hamas killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took about 250 hostages back to Gaza, which sparked a war that has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians.

"For anybody that didn't think that anti-Zionism could cross into antisemitism, the rest of the world could see that it had," said Democratic Rep. Esther Panitch, the only Jewish member of Georgia's Legislature and one of the sponsors of a bill that the state Legislature passed last week. Republican Gov. Brian Kemp is expected to sign.



Rep. Esther Panitch, D-Sandy Springs, right, fist bumps Sen. Ben Watson, R-Savannah, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, after House Bill 30, an antisemitism bill, was passed unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee in the Coverdell Legislative Office Building, Jan. 22, 2024, in Atlanta.

Defined in 2016 by the the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, antisemitism is "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish

community institutions and religious facilities." But Kenneth Stern, the author of IHRA's definition, said using such language in law is problematic. "There's an increasingly large number of young Jews for whom their Judaism leads to an antizionist position," said Stern, director of the Bard Center for

the Study of Hate. "I don't want the state to decide that issue." Over the past three months, there has been a rise in protests around the country calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages. A coalition of organizations, including Jewish Voice for Peace and CAIR,

issued a joint statement saying that the Georgia bill "falsely equates critiques of Israel and Zionism with discrimination against Jewish people."

Measures using the same definition of antisemitism but in anti-discrimination laws have advanced in legislative chambers in Indiana and South Dakota. A report from the Anti-Defamation League last year found major increases in antisemitic incidents in Georgia and Indiana, but not in South Dakota, where fewer than 10 a year were recently reported.

Other legislation with the definition is pending in at least five other states this year. Bill supporters say that more than 30 states have adopted the definition in some way over the years. Before now, the legal definitions including in New York, the state with the largest Jewish population came primarily through resolutions or executive orders rather than forceful laws. In other parts of the country, Iowa incorporated the definition into law in 2022 and Virginia did the same last year, among others. □

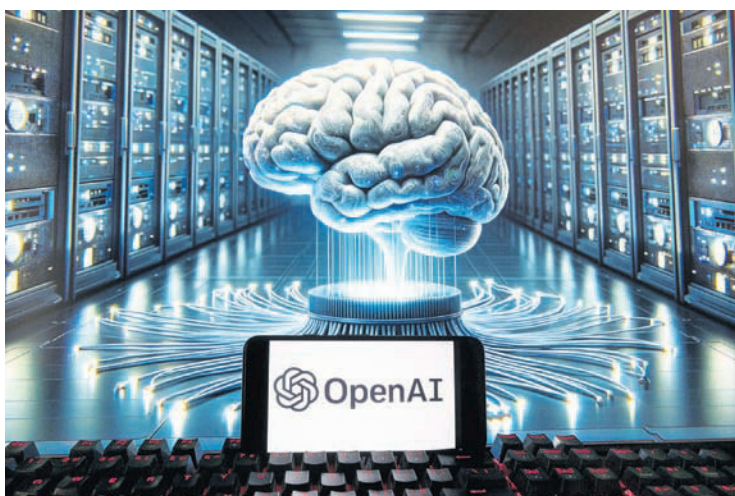
Associated Press

AI companies will need to start reporting their safety tests to the U.S. government

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration will start implementing a new

requirement for the developers of major artificial intelligence systems to disclose their safety test results to the government.



The OpenAI logo is seen displayed on a cell phone with an image on a computer monitor generated by ChatGPT's Dall-E text-to-image model, Dec. 8, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

The White House AI Council is scheduled to meet Monday to review progress made on the executive order that President Joe Biden signed three months ago to manage the fast-evolving technology. Chief among the 90-day goals from the order was a mandate under the Defense Production Act that AI companies share vital information with the Commerce Department, including safety tests. Ben Buchanan, the White House special adviser on AI, said in an interview that the government wants "to know AI systems are safe before they're released to the public the president has been very clear that companies need to meet

that bar." The software companies are committed to a set of categories for the safety tests, but companies do not yet have to comply with a common standard on the tests. The government's National Institute of Standards and Technology will develop a uniform framework for assessing safety, as part of the order Biden signed in October. AI has emerged as a leading economic and national security consideration for the federal government, given the investments and uncertainties caused by the launch of new AI tools such as ChatGPT that can generate text, images and sounds. The Biden admin-

istration also is looking at congressional legislation and working with other countries and the European Union on rules for managing the technology. The Commerce Department has developed a draft rule on U.S. cloud companies that provide servers to foreign AI developers. Nine federal agencies, including the departments of Defense, Transportation, Treasury and Health and Human Services, have completed risk assessments regarding AI's use in critical national infrastructure such as the electric grid. The government also has scaled up the hiring of AI experts and data scientists at federal agencies. □

Iranian man and 2 Canadians are charged in a murder-for-hire plot on U.S. soil

By **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Iranian man who federal prosecutors say operates a criminal network that targets dissidents and activists abroad has been charged alongside a pair of Canadians with plotting to kill two people, including a defector from Iran, who had fled to the United States.

The criminal case unsealed Monday is part of what Justice Department officials have described as a troubling trend of transnational repression, in which operatives from countries including Iran and China single out dissidents and defectors for campaigns of harassment, intimidation and sometimes violence.

In this case, prosecutors say, Naji Sharifi Zindashti conspired with two Canadian men between December 2020 and March 2021 to kill two Maryland residents.

The intended victims of the murder-for-hire plot were not identified in an indictment, but prosecutors described them as having fled



The Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building is seen Friday, June 9, 2023, in Washington. **Associated Press**

to the United States after one of them had defected from Iran.

The plot was ultimately disrupted, the Justice Department said.

"To those in Iran who plot murders on U.S. soil and the criminal actors who work with them, let today's charges send a clear message: the Department of

Justice will pursue you as long as it takes and wherever you are and deliver justice," Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, the Justice Department's top national security official, said in a statement.

The Justice Department has previously charged three men, in a plot they say originated in Iran, to kill an Ira-

nian American author and activist who has spoken out against human rights abuses there, and also brought charges in connection with a failed plot to assassinate John Bolton, the former Trump administration national security adviser.

The latest case is being disclosed at a time of simmering tension between

the U.S. and Iran, including after a weekend drone strike in northeast Jordan near the Syrian border that killed three American troops and that the Biden administration attributed to Iran-backed militias. On Monday, two U.S. officials told The Associated Press that the enemy drone may have been confused with an American drone returning to the U.S. installation.

Zindashti is believed to still be living in Iran. U.S. officials described him as a narcotics trafficker who, at the behest of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security, operates a criminal network that has orchestrated assassinations, kidnappings and other acts of transnational repression against perceived critics of the Iranian regime, including in the U.S.

In a separate but related action, the Treasury Department on Monday announced sanctions against Zindashti that will bar him and his associates from engaging in business transactions in the U.S. or with a U.S. person. □

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin returns to work at the Pentagon after cancer surgery complications

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin returned to work at the Pentagon on Monday after nearly a month's absence because of prostate cancer and met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

"At this important time, I'm glad to be back at the Pentagon," said Austin, speaking at the start of the meeting. "I feel good and am recovering well, but still recovering, and I appreciate all the good wishes that I have received thus far."

After that session, Austin went to the White House Situation Room for a meeting of the national security team to discuss the drone

attack at a base in Jordan that killed three U.S. troops and wounded several dozen others.

He was last in the Penta-

gon on Dec. 21. He had been diagnosed with prostate cancer earlier in December, and he went to a hospital for a surgical pro-

cedure for the cancer on Dec. 22. He worked the following week from home.

On Jan. 1, he was taken by ambulance to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after experiencing extreme pain and was admitted to the intensive care unit. He stayed there for two weeks but didn't inform the White House or his deputy that he had cancer, had surgery or had been taken back to the hospital and put in intensive care until days later. He told President Joe Biden and other key leaders about his diagnosis only after he'd been in the hospital more than a week.

Austin's lack of disclosure has prompted changes in federal guidelines and has

triggered an internal Pentagon review and an inspector general review into his department's notification procedures. Both reviews are ongoing.

Austin has been working from home since he got out of the hospital on Jan. 15, and he made his first public appearance early last week during a virtual Ukraine contact defense group meeting.

He gave opening remarks for the meeting via video camera that was streamed online.

Doctors at Walter Reed said on Friday that Austin's prostate cancer prognosis is excellent and no further treatments will be needed. He saw doctors for a checkup on Friday. □



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin attends a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the Pentagon in Washington, Monday, Jan. 29, 2024.

Associated Press

A Palestinian is killed while with a group waving a white flag

By JULIA FRANKEL

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's military announced it would review the shooting of a Palestinian man who was killed in the Gaza Strip while walking in a group of people waving a white flag, saying footage of the episode raised concerns of possible wrongdoing by soldiers.

A video shows a group of five men walking slowly down a street in an area west of the southern city of Khan Younis, a current focus of Israel's ground offensive.

As clouds of dark smoke billow overhead, the men hold their hands in the air. One waves a white flag, an international symbol of surrender.

Suddenly, shots ring out, killing Ramzi Abu Sahloul, a 51-year-old Palestinian shopkeeper, who was part of the group.

The shooter is not seen in the video. But before the shots are fired, the camera pans, showing what looks to be an Israeli tank positioned nearby. Ahmed Hijazi, a citizen journalist who



This image made from ITV News video shows one person on the ground after being shot.

Associated Press

filmed the episode, told The Associated Press that an Israeli tank fired on the group.

"After the soldiers shot him, I rushed to help, but the firing continued toward us," Hijazi said.

An Israeli military official said Sunday that the army

was reviewing the shooting, which took place Jan. 22.

The official said the video, first broadcast by CNN, had helped authorities understand that there were military forces in the area and that there might possibly be wrongdoing by soldiers. The British channel ITV earlier

had aired a similar video. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because there had not yet been an announcement, would not say whether a formal investigation would take place.

The military says forces take great care to verify targets before they strike.

In the video, Hijazi interviewed Abu Sahloul shortly before he was shot. Abu Sahloul said that the group of men was trying to reach relatives whom they had left behind earlier in the day while evacuating their home in southern Gaza.

"The Israelis came to us and told us to evacuate, but they didn't let my brother out," Abu Sahloul says. "We want to go and try to get them, God willing."

Within seconds, Abu Sahloul is shot dead. The other men quickly grab his body and rush back in the direction from which they came. The men declined to be interviewed for fear of retribution.

Palestinians and human rights groups have accused the Israeli military of using disproportionate or indiscriminate force in its Gaza offensive, leading to heavy civilian casualties.

They say that even when such killings are caught on video, military investigations rarely result in indictments of the soldiers involved. □

China is protesting interrogations and deportations of its students at U.S. entry points

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese government has protested to the United States over the treatment of Chinese arriving to study in America, saying some have been interrogated for hours, had their electronic devices

checked and in some cases were forcibly deported from the country.

Xie Feng, the Chinese ambassador in Washington, said dozens of Chinese have been denied entry every month for the past

few months when returning to school from overseas travel or visiting relatives in China, according to a post on the Chinese Embassy website.

"When they landed at the airport, what awaited them was an eight-hour-long interrogation by officers who prohibited them from contacting their parents, made groundless accusations against them and even forcibly repatriated them and banned their entry," he said Sunday at an event at the embassy on student exchanges. "This is absolutely unacceptable."

The protest comes as the U.S. and China try to boost student and other exchanges to shore up their relations, which have turned confrontational in recent years over trade,

technology, human rights and, more fundamentally, the future direction of the world.

Nearly 290,000 Chinese students are in the U.S., about one-third of the foreign students in the country, according to the embassy post. China has more than 1.3 million students studying abroad, more than any other country, it said.

In a separate online statement, the Chinese Embassy said it had made "solemn representations" to the U.S. government about the treatment of students arriving at Dulles airport in Washington, D.C. The statement reminded Chinese students to be cautious when entering through the airport.

It wasn't clear whether Xie's comments referenced cases only at Dulles or at other

entry points as well.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Chinese Embassy statement said the affected students had their electronic devices checked, were prohibited from communicating with anyone outside and, in some cases, held for more than 10 hours. It said the actions of border control officers "have had a serious impact on the studies of international students from China and caused great psychological harm." The statement also said that the actions ran counter to the agreement between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping at their meeting last November to promote people-to-people exchanges. □



Chinese students wait outside the U.S. Embassy for their visa application interviews on May 2, 2012, in Beijing.

Associated Press

The UK will ban disposable vapes and curb candy-flavored e-cigarettes that attract children under 18

By SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's government will ban the sale of disposable vapes and limit their cornucopia of flavors to prevent children from becoming addicted to nicotine, officials said Monday. It also plans to stick to a contentious proposal to ban today's young people from ever buying cigarettes.

It is currently illegal to sell vapes or tobacco to children under 18 in the U.K., but officials say that youth vaping has tripled in the past three years, and that cheap, colorful disposable vapes in flavors like bubblegum and candy floss are a "key driver."

"You talk to any parent or teacher, they'll talk to you about the worrying rise in vaping among children," Prime Minister Rishi Sunak told reporters.

"Children shouldn't be vaping, we don't want them to get addicted. We still don't understand the full long-term health impacts of vaping. So it is right we take strong action to stamp this



Electronic vaping devices packed in a plastic bag as Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty visit a lab at Kent Scientific Services in West Malling, England, Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

Associated Press

out."

Disposable vapes, or e-cigarettes, are behind an alarming rise in vaping among children under 18, Sunak said, with 9% of 11 to 15-year-olds now using vapes, according to figures provided by the government.

The nicotine contained within them can be highly addictive, officials said. Withdrawal sometimes causes anxiety, trouble concentrating and headaches.

The government said it will introduce new powers expected to come into ef-

fect next year to restrict flavors that are "specifically marketed at children," and ensure that manufacturers use plainer packaging and shops move the products out of sight of children. New fines will also be introduced for shops that sell vapes illegally to children.

Adults who wanted to use vapes as a tool to quit smoking would still be able to access vape kits, Sunak said.

Some experts say that the proposed ban needs to be carefully considered so that it doesn't encourage people to turn to cigarettes.

"This ban may discourage use of e-cigarettes among people trying to quit smoking and induce relapse among those who have already used disposables to quit," said Jamie Brown, director of the tobacco and alcohol research group at University College London. "Cigarettes are far more harmful to our health and are not currently banned for adults."

Sunak's government also said it will push on with a plan announced last year to gradually raise the minimum age to buy cigarettes, so that no one born after Jan. 1, 2009 can ever legally buy them.

Health experts like Brown welcomed the idea as potentially the most important public health intervention for a generation. □

Venezuelan opposition candidate blocked by court calls it 'judicial criminality,' won't abandon race

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado on Monday called the court ruling blocking her presidential candidacy last week "judicial criminality" and vowed to stay in the race, declaring that the decision embodies the ruling party's fear of having to face her at the polls.

Machado, surrounded by supporters and other opposition leaders, told reporters she expects government repression and other obstacles to increase against her and her team.

She would not explain the steps she plans to take to be allowed to participate in the presidential election, only insisting that her

team continues to organize across the South American country.

"It cannot be called a sen-

tence. It is not even an arbitrary decision. This is called judicial criminality," Machado said of Friday's ruling

by the Supreme Tribunal of Justice.

"If they believe that they declared my disqualification, then let them know well, they declared the end of this tyranny ... because people are clear and are not going to allow themselves to be stripped of their Oct. 22 decision."

The former lawmaker won a presidential primary in October by the faction of the opposition backed by the United States.

She secured more than 90% of the vote despite the government of President Nicolás Maduro announcing a 15-year ban on her running for office days after she formally entered the race.

The longtime government foe was able to participate

because the primary was organized by a commission independent of Venezuela's electoral authorities. Machado insisted throughout the campaign that she never received official notification of the ban and said voters, not ruling party loyalists, were the rightful decision-makers of her candidacy.

In December, Machado filed a claim with the tribunal, Venezuela's highest court, arguing the ban was null and void and seeking an injunction to protect her political rights.

Instead, the court upheld the ban, which alleges fraud and tax violations and accuses her of seeking the economic sanctions the U.S. imposed on Venezuela in the last decade. □



Opposition coalition presidential hopeful Maria Corina Machado gives a press conference outside her campaign headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, days after the country's highest court upheld a ban on her candidacy.

Associated Press

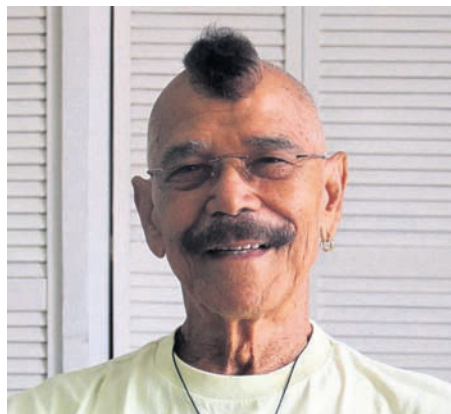
A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work.



It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according

to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down

pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



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For today we received a lovely message from our visitors Mr. John & Mrs. Marilyn Enright (Florida, USA).

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us means a nice vacation, it's relaxing, and we know what to expect, it's tranquility and Peace, it's coming back to our second home. Since our first visit in 1976 for our Honeymoon, a lot have changed, but there are somethings that will never change, and that is the warmth and friendliness of the people of Aruba, and you can't beat the beaches, it's enough to keep you busy during the whole day and with happiness to

do it again the next day. Back in 1976 there weren't many choices, we wanted to go on our honeymoon, and when we thought of the Caribbean, there were only a couple of Islands that came to mind, Aruba, St. Thomas, Cayman and Jamaica, and we saw an Ad in the New York times, and it looked nice, and we stayed at what back then was called the Americana, now it's the Barcelo Hotel", and we've visited every year since then".

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to re-

fresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you

make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do

make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen. □



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Double Triumph: Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort and Elements Restaurant Sweep USA TODAY 10Best Awards

Only Aruba restaurant to garner gastronomic win, resort highest rated on island

EAGLE BEACH –Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba, and its fine dining restaurant, Elements, have just been named by USA TODAY as top Caribbean vacation and culinary experiences. On Jan. 12, 2024, at 12 p.m. EST, the American multi-platform news and information media company revealed that Bucuti & Tara received a USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Award 2024 as a Best Caribbean Resort. Elements received a USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Award 2024 as a Best Restaurant in the Caribbean.

"We thank USA TODAY 10Best editors and the voting public for honoring Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort and Elements as best of the best vacation and dining experiences, and I thank our dedicated staff who share their enthusiasm for our Aruba home and a passion for turning our guests' dreams into reality," shares Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba.

Winning since 2017

Returning again in 2024 on the pinnacle list, Bucuti & Tara has reigned as an annual winner in the USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Award for Best Caribbean Resort since 2017. The resort earned the highest votes

in Aruba. As competition flourishes, voters continue to show their appreciation for the adults-only enclave's steadfast commitment to providing an unrivaled vacation experience dedicated to romance, wellness and sustainability. The resort's intense attention to detail and service-first approach provides an effortless vacation for guests who often become loyal visitors, so much so that USA TODAY indicated that experiencing Bucuti & Tara is "love at first stay."

Only Aruba restaurant honored

Elements is the only Aruba restaurant to be named a winner in the 2024 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice travel award contest for Best Restaurant in the Caribbean. Helmed by Executive Chef Alexander Powell, who hails from Michelin-starred restaurants, Elements is beloved for its full menus for world cuisine, vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free and its popular Authentic Aruba & Caribbean offerings created from recipes handed down over generations within staff members' families. The venue's romantic allure, dazzling oceanfront setting and attentive service amongst its sophisticated setting

Other list makers include a restaurant led by a James Beard award-winning chef, a hidden gem treasured by Anthony Bourdain and other flavor-forward, must-taste experiences in the Caribbean. Joining the timeless attribute of superior guest service and a memorable meal, each winner shares a sense of place with an increased focus on sourcing sustainably and celebrating local ingredients.

Behind the honors

Both USA TODAY 10Best Awards began as nominations result from editorial boards of highly seasoned travel journalists including Melanie Reffes, Jillian Dara, Brian Cicioni, Allison Tibaldi and Sharon Nolan. From there, the public was invited to vote over the course of one month.

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first CarbonNeutral® hotel in the Caribbean in August 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort the No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean and No. 18 Hotel in the World according to Tripadvisor. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, named by Caribbean Journal as the 2017 Caribbean Hotelier of

the Year. The resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World."

Home to the Caribbean's Safest, Healthiest Vacation Experience and Aruba's Health & Happiness Code seal, Bucuti has 104 well-appointed guestrooms, suites and penthouses. It offers sunbeds and shade for every guest; freshwater infinity pool; spa; WiFi; and complimentary iPad for use during stay. Award-winning healthy dining is enjoyed at oceanfront Elements, Tara Lounge and private beach dining. Reserved exclusively for guests and their friends, the open-air SandBar offers top-shelf cocktails and live music daily along with the Caribbean's first Healthy Hour. The resort is IGLTA and TAG Approved® as an LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti & Tara, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of CarbonNeutral®, LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe. New in 2023, the resort is the newest member of Regenerative Travel. □

Birds of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation

publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful



and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to



keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochoon

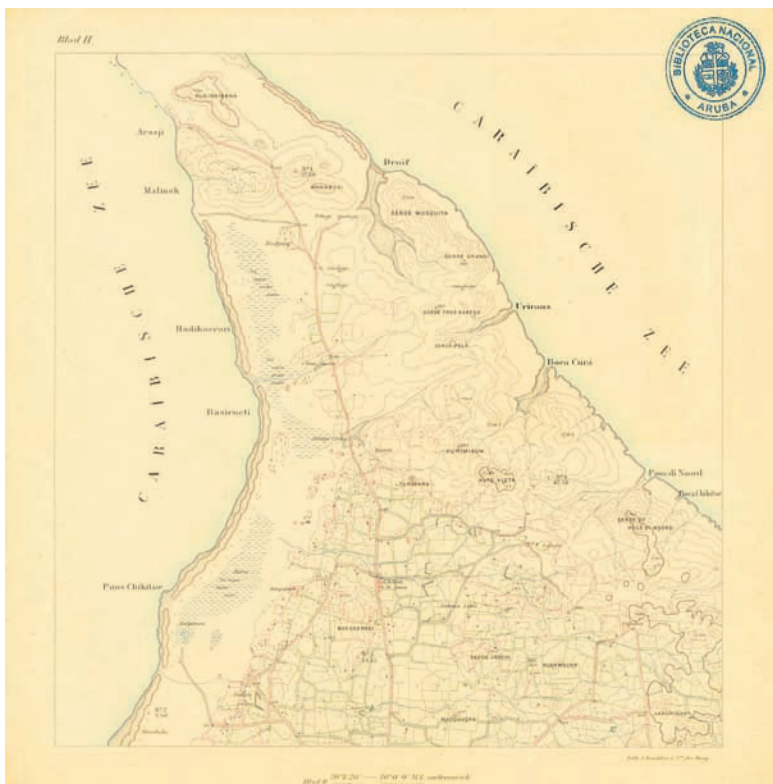
In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and



most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaarts-maragdkolibrie (mannelijke). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □

Aruba: the legend behind its name



(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock

Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired

by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also

encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



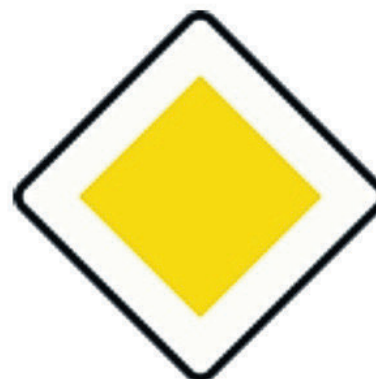
end priority



end speed limit



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stop sign



triangle stop sign

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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18 Casino

20 Snare

21 Swindler's

22 Coop

23 Oversight

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Yesterday's answer

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Romance scammers: They call you honey, but don't send them money



A pedestrian passes Valentine's day stuffed animals for sale ahead of the holiday in Philadelphia, Feb. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

By KIMBERLY PALMER of NerdWallet

Valentine's Day might put you in the mood to look for love online. Unfortunately, criminals are also on the hunt, but for victims, not romance.

"Meeting people online has opened the door to romance fraud," says Kim Casci-Palangio, program

director of the peer support program at the non-profit Cybercrime Support Network in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "You feel you can trust them," she says, adding that cybercriminals often cultivate relationships for months before asking for money.

Reports to the Federal Trade Commission show

consumers lost \$1.3 billion in 2022 to romance scams. While romance scams can happen to anybody, here are some strategies experts suggest to reduce your risk of falling for one:

BEWARE OF ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MOVE FAST

People are often eager to move relationships forward quickly, especially around official holidays, says Eva Velasquez, president and CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center, a non-profit organization that provides advice and assistance related to identity theft. She suggests going slowly instead.

Scam artists, Velasquez explains, tend to shower their targets with affection, proclaiming their love early. Then, the victim feels compelled to send money when the scam artist says they need it. "They make up some excuse like an accident," she explains. If their target doesn't send it to them, they move on to the next victim.

WATCH FOR COMMON RED FLAGS

Another sign of romance fraud is if the person you are interacting with asks you to communicate off of the dating app, such as by using WhatsApp or email, says Ayleen Charlotte, whose story of being tricked by a romance scam was featured in the Netflix show "The Tinder Swindler." Charlotte now works with BioCatch, a fraud prevention firm, as a scam advisor and banking customer advocate.

"They want you in a more personal environment to get to you," Charlotte says, where they can interact with you on their own terms without any limits imposed by dating apps. Casci-Palangio says another sign that something is amiss is if the person you are communicating with declines to have video calls with you or meet in person. They might cite reasons such as living overseas, serving in the military or working on an offshore oil rig.

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

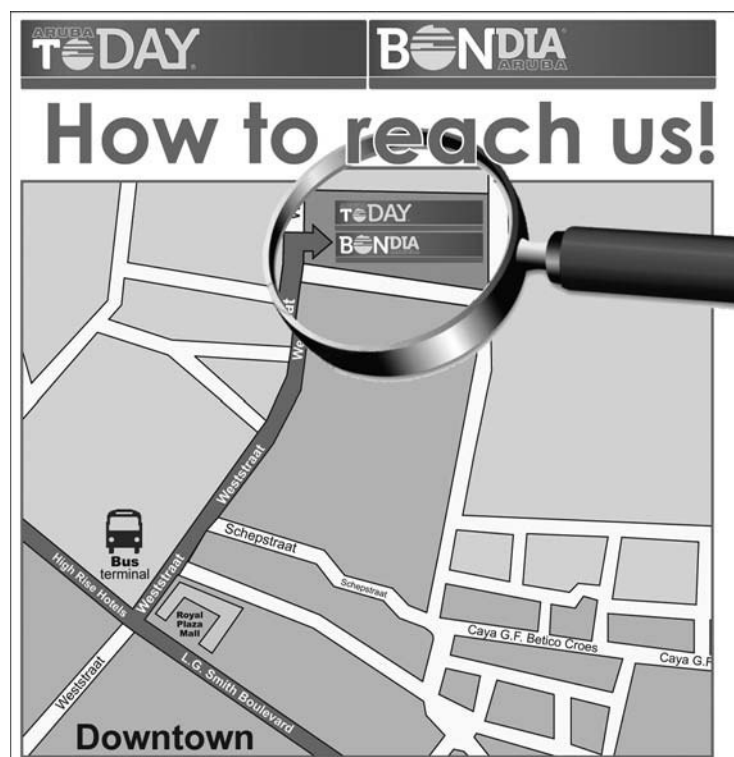
M P W C Q X C P A Y A I T Y A

G Q V E O K C P W V C P A L A A O Q V B

S A C M A A V P T X C W V E B Z A X C ?

— W A X F P K O Z X

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: RIVERS KNOW THIS: THERE IS NO HURRY. WE SHALL GET THERE SOME DAY. — A.A. MILNE



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Documentary on 'We Are the World' goes deep inside recording session of starry 1985 charity single

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Thirty-nine years ago, the biggest music stars in the world crammed into a recording studio in Los Angeles for an all-night session that they hoped might alter music history.

"We Are the World" was a 1985 charity single for African famine relief that included the voices of Michael Jackson, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Paul Simon, Tina Turner, Dionne Warwick, Lionel Richie, Billy Joel and Bruce Springsteen.

Fans get a chance to almost step into that recording session this month with the Netflix documentary "The Greatest Night in Pop," a behind-the-scenes look at the complex birth of a megahit. It starts streaming Monday.

"It's a celebration of the power of creativity and the power of collective humanity," says producer Julia Nottingham. "The amazing thing about the song is it's such an inspiration for so many artists."

The filmmakers got fresh insights after landing inter-



This image released by Netflix shows, from left, Huey Lewis, Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson, right, in a scene from "The Greatest Night in Pop."

views with Richie, Springsteen, Robinson, Cyndi Lauper, Kenny Loggins, Dionne Warwick and Huey Lewis and for an added bonus spoke to them inside A&M Studios, the site of their triumph in 1985. "I knew it was important to recreate those memories by just sort of walking into that room and what that energy created for them," said director Bao Nguyen, who

was only 2 when the single came out. The filmmakers married never-before-seen footage taken from four cameras that captured the USA for Africa session with audio from journalist David Breskin, offering insight into the dynamics and drama in the room that the official music video could not.

"The Greatest Night in Pop" isn't shy about exploring some of the more unflat-

tering things, like Al Jarreau having a bit too much wine and how Dylan was out of his element, needing Wonder to mimic how the Nobel laureate might approach his solo.

Lauper accidentally prolonged the recording session because her jangling jewelry fouled up the recording, while Prince, who was at a Mexican restaurant on the Sunset Strip, of-

fered to do an isolated guitar solo. Sheila E confesses she felt like she was invited to the recording session just to lure Prince in. In the end, Prince never made it, robbing the single of a Jackson-Prince double punch.

"For me, it was just important that we told a story that was honest," said Nguyen. "It is an honest story about the night and all the things that could have gone wrong that did go wrong but at the end of the day, it became this beautiful family."

The details in the doc are glorious: The image of Joel kissing then-wife Christie Brinkley before heading into the studio, and the nugget that Springsteen drove himself to the location in a Pontiac GTO. Other highlights: Watching singer-songwriter Joel explore an alternative lyric, the stars gathering around Wonder on a piano for the first run-through, and Richie, ever the ambassador, smoothing over potential disputes. There's a moment when the 40-plus superstars are asked to groove from their knees and stop pounding their feet on the risers, which was throwing off the sound. □

Associated Press

Music Review: Paul McCartney and Wings' release bare bones 'Band on the Run' on 50th anniversary

By **SCOTT BAUER**

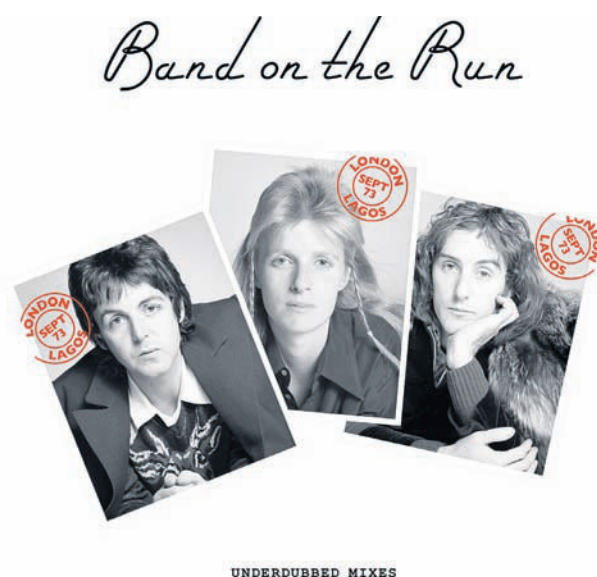
Associated Press

Sometimes less is more.

At least that's the thought behind Paul McCartney and Wings' "Band on the Run (Underdubbed)."

Fifty years after its debut, the beloved album gets yet another rerelease, this time with a version that doesn't include bonus tracks but instead pulls back some of the layers that were added after the original rough mixes. Hence, "underdubbed" in the title.

This isn't the first time McCartney has revisited an album to strip off some of the bells and whistles to



This image released by UMe shows the 50th Anniversary edition of "Band on the Run (Underdubbed)."

(UMe via Associated Press)

get closer to the original recording. He did it with the unfortunately titled "Let It Be Naked" back in 2003.

The "underdubbed" version of "Band on the Run" is notable for a slightly different song order from the U.S. release that will be jarring for those with the original sequencing committed to memory after decades of listening. The new order mirrors how the original tapes were discovered in McCartney's archives and omits "Helen Wheels," which McCartney didn't intend to include on the album but did after it was a hit single. Some of the changes with

the songs themselves are subtle: a missing guitar riff or echo here, no backing vocals there. Others are more noticeable, like no orchestral overdubs, what sounds like a vocal flub on the title track and no vocals at all on "Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Five."

So, which version is better? They are different. The original still sounds fresh and exciting today, a half century later. There's a reason why it's McCartney's best-selling, post-Beatles release. The better question is whether it's worth paying to hear the "underdubbed" version. □

Nelly Korda rallies to win hometown event for 9th LPGA Tour title, beating Lydia Ko in playoff

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) —

Nelly Korda rallied to win her hometown LPGA Drive On Championship and delay Lydia Ko's LPGA Hall of Fame entry, outlasting the New Zealander on the second hole of a playoff Sunday after overcoming a three-stroke deficit with an eagle-birdie finish.

In calmer conditions after wind gusts to 30 mph at Bradenton Country Club, Korda won with a 3-foot par putt on the par-4 18th after Ko's 4-footer caught the lip and spun out.

"I seem to always make it very dramatic and interesting," Korda said. "So, there is no better feeling than to do it in front of a home crowd. What a day!"

Ko won the season-opening Tournament of Champions last week at home in Orlando for her 20th tour victory to move within a point of qualifying for the Hall of Fame.

"It's kind of like, 'What can you do?'" Ko said. "We played our hearts out until the very end and we put ourselves into the playoff. I tried my best out there."



Nelly Korda holds the championship trophy after winning the LPGA Drive On Championship golf tournament at Bradenton Country Club, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, in Bradenton, Fla.

Associated Press

Four strokes ahead of Ko beginning play Sunday, Korda shot a 2-over 73 to match Ko at 11-under 273. Ko, playing in the group ahead of Korda, also eagled the par-5 17th in a 69. Korda dropped four strokes in a three-hole stretch making a bogey on the par-4 14th, a double bogey on

the par-3 15th and a bogey on the par-4 16th before rallying with the eagle putt across the green on 17 and an approach to a foot on 18.

"Gosh, I thought that the tournament was over going into 17," Korda said. "I just kind of gave myself a chance. I knew that if I

rolled that eagle in I had to birdie the last."

On the first extra trip down 18, Korda missed a 12-foot birdie try from the back fringe after Ko got up-and-down for par after hitting to the grandstand wall over the green.

On the second playoff hole, Korda went long to

the wall and chipped to set up the winning putt.

"Every win has a story," said Korda. "This one was definitely just with the struggles of last year and just with today as well, I thought I completely lost it."

Soon after the victory, she talked to sister Jessica, the fellow tour star who is close to giving birth to her first child a boy.

"She was like, 'I thought you were going to send me into labor,'" the winner said.

Ko three-putted after leaving her 30-foot birdie putt short.

"Obviously, I three-putted the second playoff hole, but other than that I don't feel like I lost the tournament," Ko said.

"I made a great eagle on 17, great par on 18, and then Nelly just went eagle as well and then birdied the last."

Feeding off the home crowd, the 25-year-old Korda led wire-to-wire for the first time in her career en route to her ninth LPGA Tour victory and first since the 2022 Pelican Women's Championship. □

Scott Hamilton will celebrate 40th anniversary of Olympic gold with event for cancer research

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

Scott Hamilton can scarcely believe that it has been four decades since he stood atop the Olympic podium in Sarajevo.

To commemorate the anniversary of that night at Zetra Olympic Hall, the American figure skating icon is planning to reunite with the rest of the podium Canadian silver medalist Brian Orser and bronze medalist Jozef Sabovcik of Czechoslovakia for a series of events to raise funds for his foundation and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

The event on Feb. 16 at Glide at Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York is being called "40 Years of Going

for Gold," and will include events involving Nathan Chen, who captured gold for the U.S. at the 2022 Beijing Games, and Olympic figure skater Mariah

Bell. "It's mind-boggling to believe 40 years have passed since I stood on the podium," said Hamilton, who also competed at the 1980 Winter Olympics in

Lake Placid, where he carried the flag for the opening ceremony and wound up finishing fifth.

"I can't wait to reunite with Brian and Jozef to commemorate our accomplishments," Hamilton said. "I remember thinking about my mom while the national anthem played, wishing she would have survived cancer to witness such an accomplishment."

Hamilton retired from international competition after the Sarajevo Games, and he spent many years performing in shows.

He also spent time in broadcasting and has worked extensively on the board of directors for Special Olympics International.

Yet much of his post-skating life has been dedicated to his Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation, raising money for cancer research.

Hamilton waged a much-publicized fight with testicular cancer in 1997, and seven years later, doctors discovered a benign brain tumor.

He had surgery in 2010 to prevent a recurrence of the tumor, called cranio-pharyngioma, only to have an artery nicked in the process, causing an aneurysm and forcing him to undergo an additional procedure.

He received a third brain tumor diagnosis in 2016 but the following March announced it shrank without chemotherapy. □



Scott Hamilton arrives at the ESPY Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Hard to blame Dan Campbell for staying true to his aggressive self

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Dan Campbell's aggressiveness bit his team. The Detroit Lions blew a 17-point halftime lead and missed an opportunity to reach the Super Bowl for the first time in franchise history because their head coach stuck to the same philosophy that helped him turn a perennial loser into a championship contender. Hard to blame Campbell for staying true to himself. On a Sunday filled with superlative performances by Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce in the AFC championship game and a stellar comeback by Brock Purdy and the San Francisco 49ers against the Lions in the NFC title game, Campbell's fourth-down decisions stole the spotlight.

Even another playoff failure by Lamar Jackson won't compare to the second-guessing Campbell will surely face throughout the offseason.

The Kansas City Chiefs are heading back to the Super Bowl to face the 49ers with a chance at a rare repeat in a rematch from four years ago.

But much of the talk is focused on Campbell's gambles. He was aggressive when the Lions went 3-13-



Detroit Lions head coach Dan Campbell reacts while speaking at a news conference after the NFC Championship NFL football game against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024.

1 in his first season in 2021 and he hasn't wavered in his go-for-broke approach. The Lions have led the NFL with 62 conversions on fourth down in Campbell's three seasons.

However, they couldn't convert when the stakes were highest.

After the 49ers kicked a field goal on the opening drive of the third quarter, the Lions drove into San Francisco's territory and had a chance to regain

their 17-point lead with a 46-yard attempt by Michael Badgley.

But Campbell chose to go for a fourth-and-2 from the 28 instead of taking the field goal. Jared Goff's pass bounced out of Josh Reynolds' hands, giving the 49ers some hope.

"I feel like going for it on fourth down a lot will come back to bite you," Niners edge rusher Nick Bosa said. Purdy led them on a touch-down drive, tossing a 6-yard

scoring pass to Brandon Aiyuk. Lions rookie Jahmyr Gibbs fumbled on the next play and Christian McCaffrey ran in from the 1 to tie it at 24-24.

After Jake Moody's field goal gave San Francisco a 27-24 lead, the Lions faced a fourth-and-3 from the 49ers 30 midway through the fourth quarter. Campbell passed up a shot at a tying field goal and Goff threw an incomple-

Purdy drove the Niners for

another TD that gave them a 10-point cushion and Detroit couldn't recover an onside kick after closing within 34-31.

"I just felt really good about us converting and getting our momentum and not letting them play long ball," Campbell explained. "They were bleeding the clock out, and that's what they do. And, I wanted to get the upper hand back. It's easy in hindsight, and I get it. I get that. But, I don't regret those decisions. And, it's hard. It's hard because we didn't come through. It wasn't able to work out. And, I understand the scrutiny I'll get. That's part of the gig, man. But, it just didn't work out."

Campbell, the 6-foot-5, 265-pound former NFL tight end, can handle the criticism. He knew the Lions were underdogs and hadn't won a road playoff game since capturing their last NFL championship in 1957. Before beating the Rams and Buccaneers this month, they had only one playoff win in the previous 65 seasons.

He wasn't going to come this close and change his coaching style.

"I told those guys, this may have been our only shot," Campbell said. □

Associated Press

Australian Open champions won't see change in rankings

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Australian Open champions Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka will stay where they are when the new rankings are released on Monday.

Sinner consolidates his hold on a career-best No. 4 spot in the ATP rankings, and former top-ranked Sabalenka stays at No. 2 in the WTA rankings.

Sinner rallied from two sets down to beat Daniil Medvedev 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 to win the Australian Open final on Sunday for his first Grand Slam title. Sabalenka clinched back-to-back Australian Open titles with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Zheng Qinwen on Saturday.

In the men's rankings, Novak Djokovic will stay top despite a rare defeat in the semifinals at Melbourne Park, where he is a 10-time champion. Medvedev missed the opportunity to move past No. 2 Carlos Alcaraz with a win against Sinner. He remains at No. 3. Andrey Rublev is at No. 5 and Australian Open semifinalist Alexander Zverev is sixth. Holger Rune, Hubert Hurkacz, Taylor Fritz and Stefanos Tsitsipas are in the Nos. 7-10 spots.

SWIATEK STAYS NO. 1

Despite her third-round exit at Melbourne Park, Iga Swiatek holds on to the top ranking, ahead of Sabalenka. Elena Rybakina falls two

positions to No. 5 after failing to defend the ranking points she gained for her run to the final at last year's event.

The 19-year-old Coco Gauff rises to equal her career-high at No. 3 and her fellow American Jessica Pegula moves up one spot to No. 4.

Zheng Qinwen, who made her first appearance in a major final at Melbourne Park this year, breaks into the top 10 for the first time, up from No. 15 to No. 7, behind Ons Jabeur.

Markéta Vondroušová is at No. 8, Maria Sakkari at No. 9 and Karolína Muchová rounds out the women's top ten. □



Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus poses with the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup the day after her win over Zheng Qinwen of China in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024.

Associated Press